General Assembly’s overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Official Form for Comments on the Non-paper

A. Your Information

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B. Formal Input

Please input your comments below:

IFIP IP3 has participated from 2012-2015 in WSIS Geneva hosting thematic workshops and speaking at the high-level events in 2014 and 2015. In both years IFIP was as a funding partner of the WSIS events in Geneva. In addition IFIP IP3 participated and held a workshop at the Paris UNESCO WSIS + 10 in 2013. We officially spoke and contributed through multiple interventions at the July 2, 2015 UN WSIS+10 Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultations at the UN in NYC, and submitted a post-event paper supporting WSIS and SDGs. The IFIP IP3 Global Industry Council (GIC) consists of: Prominent Leaders from Business, Industry, Government, Academia, and International Bodies from countries and organizations representing over 20T USD in market capitalization and GDP. The GIC released the free GIC 2020 Skills Assessment Report in September 2015, to support WSIS action lines and SDGs and increasing sustained growth in economic development, GDP, innovation, sustainability and security for all member states of the United Nations and organizations. GIC members also have social value program globally to support WSIS action lines and SDGs including donations. For example GIC member ISACA made a donation to UNESCO to support development goals. IFIP IP3 is very supportive of WSIS and SDGs and employing the wide community of IFIP and their diverse and extensive resources in support of WSIS and SDGs.

Background IFIP IP3: The International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3) is leading the development of

1 When specifying your stakeholder type, please indicate one of the following: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia, and Technical Sector.
the global IT profession by providing a platform that will help shape and implement relevant policies to foster professionalism in IT worldwide. IFIP, the International Federation for Information Processing, was founded under the auspices of the United Nations Educational Scientific Organization in 1960 and now has over 50 country member bodies and affiliates representing over 90 countries. IFIP is a consultative body for IT for the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization, Sector Member for the International Telecommunications Union or ITU, Scientific Associate Member of the International Council for Science or ICSU. IFIP is holding their World Computer Congress in South Korea in 2015 where the major areas of WSIS, MDGs, SDGs are progressed with this continuing in future World Computer Congress, World CIO Forums and World IT Forums. The national and international member bodies of IFIP have extensive representation with business, industry, government, academia, media, society, non-profits, practitioners and internationally. IFIP and its membership contribute extensive resources (special interest groups, technical committees, working groups, scientific research, educational resources, conferences, publications, newsletters, digital libraries, awards/prizes, contests, funding, experts, mentors, volunteers, networks, etc.) and capabilities to support developing nations, closing the digital divide, enabling ICT for development and Human Rights, providing insights to Internet Governance, building Cyberspace confidence and security building, WSIS follow-up and review, WSIS action lines and SDGs.

The common denominator for sustained growth in economic development, GDP, innovation, sustainability and security is a professional workforce supported by internationally accredited industry relevant education, demonstrated skills development, recognized ethical conduct and adherence to proven best practices and standards. This involves the collaboration of business, industry, governments, academia, and professional societies. Given the reach of ICT in our lives, it is important for an ICT professional to be technically strong (in order to use the right technology for the relevant problem), ethically grounded (to ensure that technology is put to the right use), socially conscious (so that the technical solution takes into consideration elements of sustainability) and business savvy (to ensure commercial viability which is required for social prosperity and funding of new developments). Vint Cerf co-creator of the internet recently indicated, “…I know that many of my colleagues don’t like this idea very much, but I think with the degree of software that we’re surrounded by everywhere, that at some point we may be called to task for failing to do something that protects people’s interests and there may be liability, and as soon as that happens I think that some point of accreditation will be inescapable.” Licensing (registration and regulation) is making progress in Software Engineering with 10 US states supporting it in 2013 growing to over 40 states in 2015. The European Commission E-Skills Promotion of ICT Professionalism in Europe, and the Pan-European ICT BOK goals are a sustainable model for the promotion of ICT professionalism in Europe and reducing risk and strengthening ICT professionalism. ISO/IEC 24773 provides for new conformance (accreditation) standard for certification schemes in software and systems engineering.

IFIP IP3 wish to express their compliments on the compilation of the WSIS+10 REVIEW: NON-PAPER. We are pleased that the process allows for further comment and believe that this iterative process will allow for all stakeholders to continue for focus on the key issues, and ultimately achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Given that IFIP IP3’s focus is on the ICT professionals who provide the infrastructure and systems that enable all critical components of an Information and Knowledge Society, we are particularly pleased to acknowledge the emphasis on Capacity Building (Point 16) and how education and a STEM enabled workforce are drivers.

We also note that although Point 18 is specific to ICT for development and enabling critical resources, it does mention the critical role that ICT plays in such enablement. We would have liked to see mention of the fact that this will be impossible without a skilled, knowledgeable, innovative and trustworthy ICT capability (in short, a professional ICT workforce).

With regard to Internet Governance, we would welcome more emphasis on trust and ethics, as an essential requirement for those who build internet capabilities from a networking and infrastructure point of view, as well
as those that develop content.